

## Impressions of a Brazilian in New Delhi

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(Translated from the Portuguese by Tauan Tinti)

This text is a collection of 18 fragments written during a trip to New Delhi during February and March 2014. They can be seen as a discontinuous short travel diary which develops comparative cultural criticism between Brazil and India from ordinary experiences. As they try to develop concepts from everyday occurrences they also end up fusing academia and tourism in a way that both are eventually improved. [Article copies available for a fee from *The Transformative Studies Institute*. E-mail address: [journal@transformativestudies.org](mailto:journal@transformativestudies.org) Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2023 by *The Transformative Studies Institute*. All rights reserved.]

**KEYWORDS:** Brazil, India, Culture, Commodification, Otherness.

From February 17 to March 9, 2014, I was a visiting fellow at the University of Delhi, in India, invited by the Department of English. I gave three lectures and attended a conference, *The Futures of American Studies*. The intensity of the trip, largely facilitated by the extreme hospitality of both professors and students, led me to write these notes, in an attempt to lend intelligibility to an experience that, if left unreflected, could cause considerable discomfort.

1. India is refractory to tourism. The word emerged among the Romantics, in the early 19th century, and, as it is obvious, comes from “tour”, to move in order to see what is different. Tourism necessarily involves a structure of alterity, of distance in space, that inevitably severs subject from object. The touristic practice par excellence is sightseeing.

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